

Appl. No. 09/05,035
Reply to Office Action of September 8, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A portable audio listening apparatus comprising:
means for generating an audio modulated signal modulated in a band in which a signal is transferred by using a human body of a single user;

a first electrode for outputting the generated audio modulated signal;

a second electrode for receiving the an audio modulated signal transferred through the first electrode and then through the body of the single user, with a transmission path of the audio modulated signal not being capacitively coupled to ground;

means for demodulating the audio modulated signal received by the second electrode;
and

means for generating audible sound according to the demodulated signal;

wherein said second electrode is attached to the audible sound generating means and configured to fit on or around ~~the user's~~ at least one ear of the single user to direct the audible sound into the user's at least one ear of the single user.

Claim 2 (currently amended) A portable audio listening apparatus comprising:

a portable transmission apparatus and a portable receiving apparatus electrically and mechanically structured as different units,

the portable transmission apparatus comprising:

means for generating an audio modulated signal modulated in a band in which a signal is transferred by using a human body of a single user; and

a first electrode for outputting the generated audio modulated signal, and

the portable receiving apparatus comprising:

a second electrode for receiving the an audio modulated signal transferred through the first electrode and then through the body of the single user;

means for demodulating the audio modulated signal received by the second electrode;
and

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means for generating audible sound according to the demodulated signal;
wherein said second electrode is attached to the audible sound generating means and configured to fit on or around ~~the user's~~ at least one ear of the single user to direct the audible sound into the ~~user's~~ at least one ear of the single user.

Claim 3 (original) A portable audio listening apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the transmission apparatus further comprises means for storing individual authentication data.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A portable audio listening apparatus according to claim 2 ~~one of claims 2 and 3~~, wherein the receiving apparatus further comprises means for storing individual authentication data.

Claim 5 (currently amended) A portable audio listening apparatus according to claim 2 ~~one of claims 2 to 3~~, wherein the transmission apparatus further comprises playback means for playing back an audio signal to be modulated and control means for controlling the playback means.

Claim 6 (original): A portable audio listening apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the playback means accommodates a detachable recording medium and reproduces an audio signal from the recording medium.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A portable audio listening apparatus according to claim 2 ~~one of claims 2, 3 and 6~~, wherein the transmission apparatus comprises recording means for recording an audio signal in a predetermined form, receives by an electrode an audio modulated signal transferred from a predetermined another transmission apparatus by using a human body, and demodulates the received audio modulated signal and records it in a predetermined recoding form by using the recording means.

Claim 8 (original): A portable audio listening apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the frequency band of an audio modulated signal transmitted by the transmission apparatus is

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made different from that of an audio modulated signal transmitted by the predetermined another transmission apparatus.

Claim 9 is canceled.

Claim 10 (previously amended) A portable receiving apparatus comprising:
an electrode for receiving an audio modulated signal transferred through a human body of
a user;

means for demodulating the audio modulated signal received by the electrode; and

means for generating audible sound according to the demodulated signal;

wherein the second electrode is attached to the audible sound generating means and
configured to fit on or around the user's at least one ear to direct the audible sound into the user's
at least one ear.

Claim 11 (previously added) A portable audio listening apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the second electrode, the demodulating means and the audible sound generating means
are incorporated into a headphone.

Claim 12 (previously added) A portable audio listening apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the second electrode is at least one ear pad on the headphone.